

SENATOR LANDIS: Good, thank you. That's the right amendment. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is a slightly slimmed down version of a bill that was introduced, heard before the committee, and advanced. It was LB 615, which was a committee priority. At the time that the committee heard it, it was advanced with a unanimous vote, and it was testified in favor to by the Banking Department, who was its originator, the Nebraska Bankers Association, and the Independent Bankers Association. There were no opponents at the public hearing. Last year, Congress changed the interstate banking arena in the Riegle-Neal Act which was passed in 1994, and it has two time lines in it. One is some changes that go in effect September of this year, and then another deadline in 1997. And these amendments that are brought to us come from the Banking Department in an attempt to comply with Riegle-Neal and also change any discriminatory practices that Nebraska might be exercising, which would be preempted by federal law. In essence, what the bill does is it says that a bank holding company, who wants to come to Nebraska, can do so for the purposes of acquiring a Nebraska bank. When it comes, it has to register. It can't bring a deceptively similar name with it when it comes to this state. It can't then hold greater than 14 percent of the deposits of this state. It must be adequately capitalized and managed, and it can only acquire a bank which has had its charter for five years or longer. Additionally, this new holding company, coming into Nebraska, would have to file appropriate reports, be subject to the examination of the department, and be subject to the rules and regs which the department might be able to draft under this amendment. One of the things that the bill also does, and the amendment does is to make sure that state banks may act in an agency status in the same way that federal banks can act as an agent to a home office or a home holding company. This is to make sure that our state banks and our national banks are on parity. In the end, what you do to the Nebraska Holding Company Act is to implement a series of principles. First, this bill removes any language which would be preempted by the federal law. Secondly, it removes requirements which, if applied equally, would not be discriminatory, but would be...but which are now currently applied unequally and, therefore, are discriminatory. So it makes a level playing field across the board. It generally retains current structure requirements that we have in our state laws. It retains current oversight, which we have in our state laws. It retains registration, which we have in our state laws.